

REMARKS

I. Allowable Subject Matter

The indicated allowability of Claim 6, which was previously incorporated into claim 1 and cancelled, was withdrawn in view of Sarkar et al. (U.S. Patent no. 7,236,580).

II. Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Independent Claims 1, 11, and 21 were rejected pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 7,412,040 to Koch, in view of U.S. Publication No. 2004/0086100 to Moore et al. and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,236,580 to Sarkar et al. Assignee respectfully requests reconsideration of these claim rejections.

In order to further clarify the claimed subject matter, independent claim 1 was amended to recite transmitting the converted first conference-endpoint data to **both** the first endpoint and the second endpoint. Similarly, Claim 11 recites that the processor initiates transmission of the converted first endpoint data to the first endpoint and second endpoint and Claim 21 recites initiating transmission of the converted first-endpoint data to the first endpoint and the second endpoint.

One benefit of transmitting the converted first conference-endpoint data back to the first endpoint is that the first endpoint may be used to confirm that the converted first conference-endpoint data is accurate. In other words, the endpoint that transmits the first conference-endpoint data may be used to ensure that the conversion is correct.

The Office Action indicates that Koch fails to disclose “transmitting the converted conference-endpoint data to the first and second endpoint.” Instead, the Office Action relies on Sarkar et al.

However, Sarkar et al. fail to disclose transmitting the converted conference-endpoint data to the first endpoint. The Office Action asserts that “Sarkar et al. discloses a method for the purposes of conducting a conference call wherein any conference endpoint may receive converted first endpoint data” (Office Action, page 3, emphasis added). Assignee respectfully disagrees. Sarkar et al. does not disclose that any conference endpoint may receive converted first endpoint data. Sarkar et al. disclose converting speech into text. The text is then sent to devices associated with participants who request text. Sarkar et al. is completely silent as to sending the text back to the device that originally sent the speech.

The Office Action cites the Abstract; C1:L34-42; C4:L64 – C5:L9; C5:L39-63; and C9:L41 – C10:L25 as disclosing that any conference endpoint may receive converted first endpoint data. However, the Abstract and C1:L34-42 merely disclose sending the text to “the participant that requested te[x]t.” The other passages discuss sending the text to “passive participants.” Sarkar et al. disclose that passive participants are participants that are visually monitoring the conference call while performing a second task (*See*, e.g., C1:L43-60). Sarkar et al. do not disclose sending the text back to the device that sent the voice or audio. Therefore, Claim 1 and its dependent claims are allowable over the cited reference because the cited references, either alone or in combination, fail to disclose each of the limitations of Claim 1.

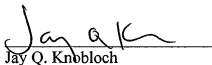
Independent Claims 11 and 21 and their dependent claims are allowable over the cited references for reasons that are similar to those discussed above.

CONCLUSION

For at least the reasons presented above, the Assignee respectfully submits that the pending claims are in condition for allowance.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned in the event that a telephone interview would expedite consideration of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jay Q. Knobloch", is written over a horizontal line.

Jay Q. Knobloch
Registration No. 57,347
Agent for Assignee

SIEMENS CORPORATION
Customer Number: 28524
Intellectual Property Department
170 Wood Avenue South
Iselin, New Jersey 08830

Attn: Elsa Keller
Direct Dial: 1-732-321-3026